



**U.S. Department of Justice**  
*United States Attorney*  
*Western District of New York*

*Further inquiries: (716)843-5814*

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*138 Delaware Avenue*  
*Buffalo, New York 14202*

# PRESS RELEASE

March 10, 2005

## **PRIEST CHARGED WITH RECEIVING AND POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

**RE: UNITED STATES v. MICHAEL VOLINO**

Michael A. Battle, the United States Attorney for the Western District of New York, announced that Michael Volino, age 41, of 2400 West Ridge Road, Rochester, New York, was present at an initial appearance today in front United States Magistrate Judge Jonathan W. Feldman in connection with a criminal complaint filed today charging Volino with receiving child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(2), which carries a mandatory minimum term of imprisonment of 5 years and a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and with possessing child pornography in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2252(a)(2), which carries a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard A. Resnick, who is handling the case, stated that the complaint states that Volino is a priest at St. John the Evangelist Church of Greece, 2400 West Ridge Road in Greece, New York. Child pornography images were discovered on Volino's computer by the Diocese of Rochester's Information Technology (IT) officer. The Diocese then turned the computer over to the FBI, who conducted an examination of the computer. The examination revealed that there were approximately 28,000 temporary Internet files stored on Volino's hard drive. Hundreds of these files contained images of child pornography; specifically images of boys under the age of 18. Some of the images were found in video clips.

The charges in this case were the culmination of an investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Peter Ahearn.

It should be noted that the fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime . . . is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

A court appearance is scheduled for March 14, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.

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